

extensive, it was a monastery & refuge too, I believe -
And there is the public-dining room & the abbot's house,
then the ^{crypt} ~~cloisters~~ built over the river, & the monks'
dormitory above, the cloister-square & refectory, the
abbot's library, & the great kitchen its huge chimney still
towering up, though, except the crypt, it is the only thing
left with any portion of roof - Then the Church, the
great frame of the East window still standing, & some
gravestones lying flat & the outlines still there of the
monumental brasses, but the pavement of the Church
now but the green grass! Trees grew within some of the
walls, & this beautiful ivy shrouding & mantling & climp-
ing, & Gothic arches & round ones & bits of carving, & beau-
tiful proportions, & old ^{of stone} masonry, I wish I could give you
some faint idea! I was tired & took a cut across the
pass & in at the window of the crypt, while our old guide
led the others round, & so I missed the old Jew tree,
under which the few monks encamped as they laid
the foundations of the beginning of the Abbey, which
few & be as large & grand, & has fallen away & ruin, &
the Jew standing still! He had to hurry away ^{at the R.R. station} ~~from~~
in our last hour of waiting, & so through these lovely grounds
again to our carriage, & go back to Ripon for the train -
He saw an American hemlock spruce in the grounds at
least 150 ft. high & feathered to the ^{summit} ~~top~~! And other trees
equally fine & beautiful - I am ^{said} ~~must~~ ^{must} stop here. ^{Compl.}

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Rew. Oct. 15. 69 -

My dear Sue,

We left York on Saturday, Oct. 2nd., for
Ripon, there to take carriage for Fountain's Abbey -
There was none ready at the station, & C. commissioned
a youth to send us one from the town, some mile or
more. He waited & clunched & waited, & none came; &
at last one appeared, sent by a gentleman for his
luggage - He seized upon it, the more that the rail-
way porter, who had arrived in in broad Yorkshire
that they had forgotten us, warmly remonstrated with
the youth who drove it, on the impossibility & impro-
priety of "all them boxes & packages" "going in a nice flog"
Some drove through Ripon in a pelting rain, & the youth
stopping at the "unicorn" for his great coat, the gentleman
came to the door & looked at us with immense disgust.
It was a pretty drive through country road, blue hedges
& pretty with hawthorn berries, & holly berries & bushes,
& bright & cheery, & then a quantity of rose hedges coming
in, of a lighter shade of red, & presently we entered
through the open gates of a fine park, - grand trees
& grouped, & quantities of deer grazing or lying down - It
is a little odd, the bucks & does & fawns almost all
herd separately - There ~~was~~ ^{some} also a fine, large, red deer

Soon we came to a lodge & gates that were closed - Here we got out, & going in to the lodge, found a notice of 50 much each for admission, & no other gratuities to guides - We signed our names, paid our fees, & passing through the house to a gravel-walk, a poor, old one-armed man shuffled along & chewed us the way - We went through a grove, a beautiful hill-side of the freshest green laurel rising before us, & presently came a break in the trees & shrubs at our side, & we looked as through a frame, on such a lovely view! A stream of water was dammed below, a fine, ornamental, stone balustrade running along the top of the dam & continuing as fence to the gates, in which strutted the handsome peacocks, this water made below us a pond, as smooth & as clear as a brilliant mirror laid out on the grass of liveliest green, & cut into smooth outlines of crescent & oval, enclosing a round island of smoothest green, in the centre of which was a beautiful ^{island, from the hillside all reflected in this mirror -} ~~Marz~~ ^{Marz} ~~pond~~ ^{pond} the other side the water as background, rose a hill-side covered with trees of various outline & shades of green, the foliage reaching to the turf below, & in the midst a small temple of graceful outline. It was lovely in effect! And all the way along, winding through this beautiful grove, some of the finest

specimens of trees in it I ever saw, came these openings of arches, & circles, &c. shewing some new form of statue & ground! I never saw formal effect so beautiful, for it was on so large a scale & so admirably carried out in general effect & in detail, that it was entirely harmonious & fine, - Not petty or overdone - Presently we crossed a rustic bridge, & then changed to milder scenery, more ~~grove~~ ^{wood} ~~grove~~ ^{wood} like, but still so beautiful! I skirted a little pond with trees bordering it, & two swans, who sailed after us, hoping to be fed - Our old guide warmed up & seemed to enjoy our pleasure, & turning off from the main path, said it was not the shortest way but the best, & so led us to the top of a hill, where was a wall & a double door, closed - He placed us in front, & then threw them open, & such a lovely view! The little photo. gives a faint idea of the stream below, & lovely woods, & the grey, picturesque ruins rising in the distance, ^{very} mantling it, & just as we looked, the sun came out through the dapple of rain & lit up a tree one could see just through the great east window! It was one's ideal of beauty & effect! - ^{Some Boleyn's seat, they call it -} It rained half the time, & we had to walk on through showers, but everything was so beautiful, we quite forgot it could be better - The ruins are very